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ON THE
DUCHY MANORS IN CORNWALL,
AND THE
CASTLES & EARTH-WORKS
ON THEM,
BY
HENRY Mc. LAUHLAN, Esq.

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TYBESTA AND TRURO.

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MANOR OF TYBESTA.

The Manor of Tybesta was one of the Manors given by the Conqueror to his half-brother the Earl of Moreton. It contains the whole of the parish of Creed; and parts of the parishes of Probus and Cuby.

It is spelt Tibesteu in the Domesday Survey,* and gave at that time the name to one of the Hundreds of Cornwall.†

That part of the Manor where the ancient Castle, or Round, is still to be seen, and where an ancient Well is found (traditionally the site of a Chapel,) is probably the part which gave the name to the Manor.‡ (PLATE XVII, Fig. 1.) *Tybesta* has been translated, beast house; but on examination it will be found, that near the spot above mentioned is a farm called Pendenbethwy; and some fields called Cregoes,§ on each side the great road, which road is presumed to be an ancient British, if not a Roman, way.

Beth, or *Bedd*, is a grave, and *Bethau*, the plural.

Creg, or *Crág*, is a tump, heap, or tumulus, also the designation of barrows where the ancients buried their dead; from which it is presumed, that, this part in the road has been contested in early times, and the slain buried near it; or that it was the cemetery of the ancient inhabitants of Grampond, which has been supposed to be the Voluba of the ancient itineraries.

* Exeter Copy, in Lysons' Corn. Intro. page 61.

† "The alterations of the Hundreds took place between the years 1088, when the Survey was taken, and 1288 the time of the Lincoln taxation." (Lysons' Corn., Intro. page 24.)

‡ Hals says, "there are yet extant, in this Manor, the ruins of an old Chapel called by the name of Tybesta." (Davies Gilbert's His. Corn., vol. 1, page 253.) The stream which flows from Tybesta Well, passes a farm called Nantellan, [Nant-d-Ilan,—the valley of the Chapel or Church.

§ Tithe apportionment, and map of the parish of Creed.

For the above reasons it is presumed, that the ancient name of the Manor was Ty-bethau,—the *house of the graves*—

“A noble race, but they are gone!
 “With their old forests wide and deep;
 “And we have fed our flocks upon
 “Hills where their generations sleep.
 “Their fountains slake our thirst at noon,
 “Upon their fields our harvest waves;
 “Our shepherds woo beneath their moon,
 “Ah! let us spare at least their graves!”

The Castle, which stands in a field called Castle-field, on a tenement called Nantellan,* and was formed of one rampart and ditch, is about 650 yards on the N.W. of Tybesta Well, and about 1,300 yards N.E. of Grampond. It may be co-extensive, in point of age, with the Manor itself, and it was of an oval form, gently sloping towards the east, its diameters being about 360 feet, and 300 feet.† About ten years since, the rampart was destroyed, and the ditch filled up, so that the traces merely of what it was, exist at the present day.—Grampond is probably a place of great antiquity, being similarly situated with Truro, and Lostwithiel, at the head of an estuary, and on the great road from Liskeard to Redruth.

Its present name is said to be of Norman origin, and Pons-mur its British name,‡ which in Cornish means the same thing.—*Great Bridge*.—In the Duchy records it is spelt Grauntpoint, and there is an entry in the 11th of Edward 3rd of “42 acres of waste in one land called Coys-fala,” to the Burgesses of Grandpont.

This tenement of Coys-fala, has been ascertained to be on the Probus side of the bridge.

Hals, says,|| “it appeareth from the charter lately extant, wherein the ancient rights and privileges thereof are confirmed by Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall, son of Richard, King of the Romans, A.D. 1290, that, it was incorporated by the name of Coyt-fala, or Coit-fala.”

Tonkin says,§ “Brown Willis in his additions to Camden, cites a charter still extant from John of Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, by which all former privileges are confirmed to the vill of Grampont, with all the lands of Coit Pale, which signifies Tolewood,(?) and

* Tithe Apportionment, and map of the parish of Creed. The ground at the source of the stream, opposite the Well, is called Crossoby—*place of the Cross?*

† So many of these Rounds have been made of an oval form, and on a gentle slope to the south-east, rather below the summit of the hill than upon it; that it is conjectured some religious observances may have been connected with their formation, as well as motives of defence.

‡ Hals, in Davies Gilbert's *His. Corn.*, vol. 1, page 251.

|| Idem, page 253.

§ Idem, page 257.

a part of the town is at this time called Coit-fala. This charter is dated at Chippenham, October 26, 1332."

It is evident from the above quotations, that Coit-fala, was the original name of Grampont,—or at least of a part of it.

As, "*F* is never the radical initial letter of any British word,"* and also, that, "Words primarily beginning with *P* have four initials *P. b. mh.*, and† *ph.*," it may be assumed, that, the words in the above charters, *pale*, and *fala*, have *B*, as their radical letter; and that the original word was *Bala*. Now, Thomas Richards, in his Welsh Dictionary, under the word *Bala*, after giving several authorities to prove that *Bala*, means the same as *Aber*, observes, others contend, that *Bala*, in the old British, as well as the Irish, signifies a village, or country town. Pagus ait Henricus Perrius, D."

From this it may fairly be presumed, that the word *fala*, designated the village, and that the stream took its name from the place, *Bala*, in composition *fala*.

TYBESTA. (CREED, PENCOOSE, AND RESUGGA.)

The parish of Creed passed under the name of the Manor, (Tybeste, Tibesteu,) in Domesday;‡ and at the inquisition of the Bishops of Lincoln and Winchester, A.D. 1294, as Ecclesia de Sancto Creed."||

The Manor of Penstrassoe, is a Manor within Tybesta. Its name may be a corruption of Pentre-is-coed.—Village under the wood,—and the woody nature of the place may be inferred from the present name of the greater part of it,—viz: Pencoose.

The Castle is also called Pencoose, and enough of it remains to show, that it was of an elliptical form, with diameters of 460 feet and 260 feet respectively.—On the north the rampart is nearly perfect, but the other parts have been levelled, and the ditch nearly filled up. (PLATE XVII, Fig. 2.)

Tradition points out another Castle, or Camp, within the Manor of Tybesta, commanding the ford of the two tributaries of the Fal, on the farm called Garlinick, and in a field called Parc-gear, —*Camp-field*.§—The spot pointed out by the farmer is not suffi-

* Thomas Richards's Welsh Dictionary. (F.)

† Idem. page 4.

‡ Lysons' Corn. Intro., page 60.

|| Hals, in Davies Gilbert's His. Corn., vol. 1, page 253. Perhaps named from *Crag*, a *tumulus*.

§ Whitaker's Cath. His. Corn., vol. 1, page 303, and Cornish Vocab.

ciently clear to merit a particular description, and it is to be feared, that all traces of its existence, except its name, have vanished under repeated cultivation. On the opposite side of the above mentioned tributaries of the Fal, in the parish of St. Stephens, and about midway between that Church and Grampond, is the castle of Resugga.

Its name may be derived from *Res, Les-uchaf*,—upper camp, or court,—in the same way that it is presumed, that the *Res*, in Restormel, may come from *Les*;—its situation in the upper part of the river conferring the appellation of *uchaf*,—upper.

It is of an oval form, having the diameters about 165 feet and 130 feet respectively.

Its eastern part rests on the edge of a precipice, over one of the small streams falling into the river, and it has a slight inclination to the south east. The approach is on the north west, and is defended by an outwork of great strength, but small extent; the approach itself seems to have been a hollow, or covert, way admitting of defence from the work. It is about a quarter of a mile from the river Fal.* (PLATE XVIII, Fig. 1.)

TYBESTA. (TREGONY.)

The remains of Tregony Castle are very few indeed, only some fragments of stone and mortar in the ditch, which from their having been buried there till lately, and being of extremely well cemented stuff, exist as firmly as ever. The traces of the ditch cut out of the rock, are distinctly to be seen for a great part of the interior circle, for that appears to have been the form of it, and on the outside, towards the western declivity, was an attached outwork, the outline of which is very obscure. (PLATE XVIII, Fig. 2.) In the centre of the work was a tumulus, which has been nearly all carried away within the memory of man. It is said to have been very lofty, and the spot is still called “the green hill.”

Mr. Whitaker, who examined these ruins says, “the Romans saw the slope of Tregony hill terminate in a prominence, with a high precipice on each side, and a brook uniting with the Fal under it.”

*It is conjectured, that the local name of *Crow Hill* may be from *Cerau*, Camp; and *Tre-way*, from *Tre-fre*,—Bre,—a hill.

"On this prominence they fixed one of their Castles, which, like most of them, was rebuilt in a more modern form afterwards, of which the trenches were discovered in the rock on the north-west about nineteen years ago, and the Mount in the middle still remains as what it is denominated "the green hill" to the present day.*

Mr. Lysons, says, Tregony Castle, of which there are no remains, is said to have been built by Henry de Pomeroy, on behalf of John, Earl of Cornwall, at the time that King Richard 1st was in the Holy Land: it was standing, and was the seat of the Pomeroy's in the reign of Edward 6th, its site was at the lower end of the town, a little below the hospital."†

Since the above was written the rubbish has been cleared away and exposed more of the ditch, and the fragments of masonry in it.

The diameter of the inner circle is about 130 feet; the ditch about 15 feet wide; the breadth of the outwork 300 feet, and its width from the ditch of the inner circle to the ditch of the outwork, about 120 feet.

Whether the outline of the outwork was strictly circular, or right-lined a part of the way, it is impossible to say from the imperfect state of the remains; but there is no appearance to lead to the conclusion that a Roman work had ever been constructed there; besides, it is too near to Caer-fossa, which has the character of a Roman work.

TYBESTA. (CAER-FOSSA.)

Caer-fossa, is about two miles north and by west from Tregony, and about a mile west of Grampond, on the side of the old road to Probus, and the ancient way from St. Austell to Redruth.

The field is called Gaer-meadow: and though the rampart and ditch are only perfect on one side, the traces of the other three sides are sufficiently apparent to infer, that it is an ancient camp, even without its British name of Gaer. (PLATE XIX, Fig. 1.)

The form appears to have been that of a right-angled parallelogram with the angles rounded, and with sides of about 530 and

* Whitaker's Cath. His. Corn., vol. 2, page 48.

† Lysons' Corn., page 74. It will be remembered there was no residence on Tybesta.

400 feet. From what remains there seems to have been one rampart and ditch of great strength, and altogether similar to the camps at Bosence, near Hayle, and Tregear, near Bodmin: those who agree with Dr. Borlase, that Agricola conquered Cornwall by water, will see in these three camps some confirmation of Roman occupation, and in this of *Caer-fossa*, some probability, that they had a post near Grampond, if not actually the Voluba of Ptolemy, and the Itineraries.

It does not appear that any remains have been found to shew by what people the place has been occupied.

Its position on the great road, and within a mile of what was once supposed to have been a landing place called by Norden* "*Hale boate rock*," and by Mr. Whitaker,† "*Hal-bot-rock*," renders it a spot of much interest. It is supposed that the tide once flowed above Tregony, and the apparent rise of the bed of the river favours the opinion, even to the extent mentioned by Norden, and adopted by Whitaker.

Hale boat rock, is the place to which the tide is said to have flowed; and it is the more probable from the application of the word Hayle, which generally occurs in places within the reach of high water. Mr. Whitaker spells the words *Hal-bot-rock*, and derives from that way of spelling *Hal*, the word *Moor*, whereas *haile*, or *ail*, is a *rock*, *cliff*, or *shore*; and *bord*, is a *border*,‡ or boundary, whence *hayle*, *bord*,—boundary rock,—was probably the British name, from the rock being near the boundary, (at the river) of the parishes of Creed and Cuby, which it is still.

TYBESTA. (WOLVEDUN.)

About a mile to the south west of *Caer-fossa*, on the same side of the river Fal, is a large ancient entrenchment called Golden, or Wolvedun.¶ The name may possibly be derived from the river, *Val*, and hence, *Val-a-dun*, the camp, or fortress, on the Val. (PLATE XIX, Fig. 2.)

Dr. Borlase considers the camp a Roman work. It has, as he observes, two of its angles nearly right angles, but the rest of it conforms to the shape of the ground; and of the inference drawn from the stone and mortar buttress, or counterfort, which is all

* Norden, page 6.

† Cath. His. Corn., vol. 2, page 45.

‡ Borlase's Antiquities, Cornish Vocab.

¶ The next tencement to Wolvedun, on the north, is Trevilvas, probably Trevalva,—the place near the Val.

that now remains of the "masonry of thin stones in cement,"* it may be said, that there is not sufficient left to prove that the counterscarp was faced with stone, or that, the materials were such as the Romans used in their works as at Caerleon, and Caerwent.

The masonry appears to be of comparatively recent date, and to have formed an entrance from the ancient ditch into the field nearly opposite, called the *Long Warren*, which opinion is in some measure strengthened by a fence from the rampart across the ditch being still visible.

This formidable entrenchment is immediately above the river Fal, opposite to Hayle boat rock, or Halbert's rock, to which Norden says the tide once flowed.

The foregoing are the principal places of defence about Grampond, and the Manor of Tybesta. It remains to be proved whether the Voluba of the Romans was on this estuary or not.

Dr. Horsley observes, "Voliba, I take by the situation, to be Lostwithiel in Cornwall. There are some marks of antiquity about this town, which therefore has been supposed to be Ptolemy's Uxela. But I think the situation favours not this so much as the other, and I rather incline to think Uxela is Exeter."†

Few will like to oppose so good an authority as the above; but, it is presumed, from what has been said of Caer-fosa, that there will be found in the neighbourhood some evidence to support the opinion of Dr. Borlase, that Voluba, was at or near to Grampond.

Among many valuable suggestions received from Mr. J. D. Cook, in getting up these papers, is one respecting the number of Camps surrounding the head of the two estuaries of the Fal, at Grampond and Truro.

The nearness of these camps to each other would imply, that at either place the whole of them were under the command of one Chieftain, and that they formed outworks for the defence of some interior places of importance communicating with the river and the sea; hence he would infer, that the Romans also would have selected them as stations.

Be this as it may, there do not appear as yet to have been any Roman remains discovered at Truro,‡ nor any evidence to prove, that it was the Ceniam of Ptolemy;—which, if it be admitted, that Grampond was Voluba, would seem probable, as the

* Borlase's Antiquities, page 291. (Ed. 1754.)

† Horsley's Brit. Roma., page 375. (Ed. 1732, Lond.)

‡ See the Twenty-second Annual Report of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, page 31.

next mentioned to the westward, and on the Falmouth river, the mouth of which is considered to be the Cenionis Ostia of Ptolemy.

It may be mentioned, that the site of the Castle of Truro, once stood within the parish of *Kenwyn*,* the sound of which is sufficiently near to pass for Cenion; but on the other hand it does not appear from good authority, that the estuary ever went by the name of Cenion, or Kenwyn, or either of the streams which fall into it at Truro.†

TRURO.

Many attempts have been made to explain the derivation of the name Truro, which on all hands is agreed to be a corruption of the word as it is written in the ancient charters.

"In Domesday Book, 1087, this place was taxed under the appellations of *Trewret*, and *Treured*, which shows that it then consisted of two privileged manors or jurisdictions, viz:—the borough of *Trewret*, and the manor of *Treured*, now known and distinguished by the names of the borough and manor of Truro, under the like circumstances."‡

"The *Castle* is not mentioned in Domesday Book."§

"Richard de Lucy, is styled, in an Instrument of Henry 2nd;"

"Richard de Lucy of *Trivereu*."¶

"By Charter from King John, the *town* was incorporated by the name of Burgus de *Trewrow*."¶

In the Inquisition of the Bishops of Lincoln and Winchester, in 1294, it was *Trewroe*.††

These authorities are confirmed by the ancient charters of the Borough, with extracts from which I have been favoured by the Town Clerk, Mr. Simmons,—he says,—“Our earliest charter is one from Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, confirming the privileges granted by Richard de Lucy, and in this the name of the town is spelt “*Triueru*,”—it is well written and distinct.”—The charter

* The parish of St. Mary was taken out of that of Kenwyn.

† There appears to be no confirmation of the assertion of Dr Hingston, that “the town is intersected by two rivers, which originally were its boundaries, the Cenion on the south, and the Allan on the east.” (Davies Gilbert’s Hist. Corn., vol. 4, page 315.)

‡ Hals, in Davies Gilbert’s History of Cornwall, vol. 4, page 70.

§ See Brady on Boroughs, (page 42.)

¶ Davies Gilbert’s History of Cornwall, vol. 4, page 82.

¶ Hals, in Davies Gilbert’s History of Cornwall.

†† Hals, in Davies Gilbert’s History of Cornwall, vol. 4, page 71.

of confirmation of Edward 1st, which is very beautifully engrossed, also spells the word "*Triveru*."*

In the 22nd Annual Report of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, there is a paper by Mr. Spry, in which he quotes "an Indenture made at *Truru*, the 6th day of May, the 19th year of King Henry the 7th, (1504) from Sir John Arundell, granting permission to take stone from Truro-vean to build the Church."†

Leland says, "This creke of *Truru*, above the very town, is divided into two partes, and eche of them hath a brook cumming down, and a bridge, and the town of *Truru* betwixt them both."‡

Camden says, *Truro* in Cornish *Truru*, so called from *three streets*, in a manor encompassed with two little rivers; and distinguished by being a Mayor-town, and by the privileges it has in the business of the Stannaries."§

Tonkin says, "Truro is situated in the hundred of Powder, and is surrounded to the south, west, and north, by Kenwyn, and to the east by St. Clements, being washed on each side by two rivulets, (of which that which comes from St. Allen is the principal) and which joining together at the bottom of the town fall into an arm of Falmouth harbour, and form a beautiful basin and key there.—This takes its name from the town, as that does from the *three principal streets* of which it consists. *Tri*—*three*, and *Ru*—a street,—turned to Truro, euphoniæ gratia."||

On this explanation, Whitaker observes, "this Etymon, which is adopted from Camden, is obviously absurd, as the town must have had a name long before it forked out into three streets, and indeed from the first moments of its existence as a town, as a parish, or as a manor."

"The town consisted at first probably of the street running from the foot of the hill on a part of which the Castle stood, and extending backwards with its yards and gardens to the western current; and, this part of course adopted the previous appellation of the Castle, and was called with it Tre-vereu, Treureu, or Truru, Treuro, or Truro,—the house, or Castle, upon the Uro, or Uru, the same denomination of a river with that of the Vere, in Hertfordshire, the Vera-lamium of the itineraries, the Urolanium of Ptolemy, and that of the Eure in Yorkshire, the Uluracum, and the Is-ur-ium of the geography and itineraries."¶

* Letter from Mr. Simmons, sen., dated Truro, January 10th, 1847, confirmed by a recent discovery of the "conventual Seal of the Friars preachers of Truro," on which the word is spelt *Triveru*.

† 22nd p. Annual Report.

‡ Leland's Itinerary, in Davies Gilbert's History of Cornwall, vol. 4, page 272.

§ Gibson's Camden, Brit. 2nd Edition, vol. 1, page 18.

|| Tonkin, in Davies Gilbert's His. Corn., vol. 4, page 79.

¶ Davies Gilbert's History of Cornwall, vol. 4, page 79.

Polwhele says, (in a note) "My readers must have observed, that I have ventured to number Truro among our Roman towns; and derived it from *Tre-vorou*—the town on the ways.—But Mr. Whitaker is probably right, I will not presume to oppose my wavering opinion to his decided judgment.—I shall only remark on his etymology, that we have no such river as the Uro, or Eure in any part of Cornwall, and that Uro or Eure is not Cornish."*

Dr. Hingston says, "*Truro* is a corruption of the word *Trivereu*."—"Nothing can be better known than that *Rivereu* or *Rivero*, in the ancient language of this county, had the same meaning as the kindred word *rivers* in English: and with regard to the initial T. it can be scarcely necessary to say, that it stands for Tre, or its archaic form Te, a town. The word, therefore, in the primitive and proper mode of writing it is *Trerivero*, and consequently the name as it appears in Reginald's Charter, is itself an example of that liability to change by which the same word was subsequently converted to Truro."

"But the alteration in that case was so slight, that the composition of the word was scarcely observed: and so natural that its corruption could not have been prevented."

"For it was hardly possible in common speech to avoid the elision which turns *Trerivero* into *Trivero*, as this has been again contracted to Truro."

"The word *Truro* then signifies *the town on the rivers*, or, as we should now say *Riverton*."

"And this interpretation is illustrated and confirmed by the local peculiarities, for the town is intersected by two rivers which originally were its boundaries,—the Cenion on the south, and the Allan on the east."†

On referring the derivation of *Truro*, *Tréf-a-rhiu*.—to Mr. John Fenton, of Fishguard,‡ who has turned his attention to the application of Welch words to names of places, he replies, "I am sorry I cannot quite coincide with you as to the derivation of Truro,—although yours is ingenious, and might do upon a transient view of the subject, as perhaps applicable to the situation, with which I am really unacquainted, but, be it ever so applicable, there is in your derivation the interpolation of an f, in *Tref*, which I can do without, and apply it I think more significantly to what

* Note; in Polwhele's History of Cornwall, vol. 2, page 220. (The Cornwall Library copy.) See also a note in Borlase's Antiquities, where he is of opinion that *Tre* is the first syllable, and the rest as stated by Mr. Polwhele. (—Chap. 5th.) Page 306, Ed. 1754.

† Davies Gilbert's History of Cornwall, vol. 4, page 315.

‡ Mr. John Fenton assisted Sir R. C. Hoare, and his father, in the History of Pembrokeshire.

appears to me to be the real meaning of the word, spelt as you say it is in ancient records, *Treuerue*, and as I have found it in Cornish *Truru* viz., *three streets*,"—"the word *Rhiw*, in Welch is never applied to a *simple acclivity* but *always* to some road of a steep or an inclined plane; such as *Rhiw-velen*,—*Rhiw-las*—*Rhiw-avon*, and a hundred such. Neither Drs. Pughe or Davis, give much light upon the word *Rhiw*, which they, following each other, term a *slope* or *side of a mountain*; but they certainly lost sight of the real meaning of *Rhiw*, which is never in any instance within my knowledge applied to the slope of any mountain unless there be a beaten road upon that part, and then my etymology of the word is a right one. A very common answer in this part of the country is, to the question, 'where on the *road* did you meet him?' *ar-y-rhiw*, that is, upon the sloping or steep road."*

In a subsequent letter Mr. Fenton says, "since I wrote to you I have seen the Rev. John Jones (*Tegid*) of Newern. He is good Welch authority, and quite agrees that I have hit upon the right etymology of *Truro*."

"If you look a little narrowly into the matter you will find that all Cornish names of places that mean town, or hamlet, our *Tref*, always (I believe there is no exception to the rule) begin with *Tre*, never *Tru*; now the word *Tru* is three in Cornish, being synonymous with the Welch *Tri*, as the *u* has the sound of *i*, nearly, in Cornish, and Armoric."

"I also find, on consulting my friends dictionaries, that *Rü* in Armoric means *Street*, which comes again to my definition, as *Truro* was formerly spelt in Cornish *Tru-rü*."†

In a further reply to some of the objections urged against him, Mr. Fenton says, "you make out that there are *three* streets, and also now, others,—very good—but we are to look at the *Cornish* origin of the place and then, no doubt, it had only *three*. I have nothing to do with the Norman invasion, this was quite a different and subsequent epoch; whatever alterations these Normans made in names, you will always find that the spelling evidenced the original meaning. The *u* in the old dialect of the Cornish had the sound of *i*, or *e* rather, which was altered when the *u* was dotted as in *Rü* (Armoric) it had then the sound of the Dimatian *Rhiw*."

"The British, as you state, would not have adopted the modern Norman French. But, whence was Cornwall originally colonized? Why, from Brittany, and probably before Wales was; for by all accounts Britain was originally peopled from the Gauls long be-

* Mr. Fenton's letter, dated 17th January, 1847.

† Mr. Fenton's letter, dated 8th February, 1847.

fore we had any traditional or historical record of such an event ; and, Cornwall being an outlying Promontory and almost opposite to that part of France, is it not reasonable to suppose, that this was the first settlement characterized by the peculiar dialect of that Province of Gaul, the Armoric, from which it originally sprung ?”

“ Besides, do we not know that the Danmonii, or inhabitants of Cornwall, went to assist their ancestors the Armoricans, or natives of Brittany, in their wars against Julius Cæsar, which no doubt led him afterwards to invade Britain ;—it is not likely they would have done this, had they not been the same people.”*

Mr. Just, of Bury, Lancashire, who has read several papers before the Manchester Literary Institution on this subject, of names of places, particularly in the Anglo Saxon tongue, says :—“ I see no objection to your identifying the *ru* with the Welch *rhiw*,—a descent or declining slope.”

“ I think Camden’s derivation fanciful, unless he has had some authority for surmising the first settlers on the spot were Norman French, and gave their *three street* town its significant name ”

“ And Whitaker’s derivations, I conceive to be amusing and fanciful, unless indeed the stream on which the town stands is named the Ure, or Uro.”—“ You puzzle me very much with your wish to know what the Eure in Yorkshire is to be derived from.”

“ The only word I can at all associate it with is the Keltic word *Ur*,—meaning a limit or a boundary.—I have often when thinking on the subject felt curious to know whether the river was the boundary between the eastern and western Brigantes or not.—At present we have no means of ascertaining this point, otherwise, such being the case, I should incline to the opinion.”†

Having thus brought to bear on the subject all the intelligence within reach at present, it seems but reasonable to conclude, that the original British name of the Manor, Castle, or Town, was Trêv-a-ru, or Tre-a-rhiw,—the *place*, or *village* ; at the *slope*, or *declivity*, in the *road*, or *way*.

For, there appears nothing to invalidate the observation of Mr. Whitaker, that “ the town must have had a name long before it forked out into *three streets*.”—And should the Manor be identified with the Trewret, or Treured, of Domesday, and the spelling of the Bishops of Lincoln and Winchester, (Trewroe) there would be no impropriety in setting aside that of the Charter of Truro ; (Triueru) opposed as it is to the spelling of every other Manor in the County, commencing with a similar syllable. The next syllable will be the letter *e*, or *a*, or *y*,—which stands for the

* Mr. Fenton’s letter, dated 16th February, 1847.

† Mr. Just’s letter, dated January 25th, 1847.

article *the*; and the third syllable will be *ru*, disconnected from the other letters, as explained by Camden, and written by Leland; and therefore probably the pronounciation in their day.

Camden supposed *ru*, to mean a *street*; but *ru*, or *rhiw*, is a word very common in the names of places in Wales,* and there does not seem any necessity for going to the Armorican,† or Norman French, when a Keltic word is so near at hand and so suitable to the locality.

It does not seem to occur in any name in the district at the present day; but, in the Assession Roll of the Duchy Manor of Tywarnhaile, it is found with the Welch meaning, and was sufficiently defined to trace its meaning to a British or Welch origin. "Twelve tenants hold the pasture of the land of *Ruallen*, in convention as above. Rendering at Michaelmas 5s. 4d."

In this case *Ru*, could not mean a *street*; *Ru-a-llyn*,—the declivity or slope by the lake or stream.—(Copied from the Caption of Seisin, in the 11th of Edward 3rd.)—It may also be conjectured, that Reiver, or Ryyer, the spot on which the Castle of Theodore stood, and where the early Christians are supposed to have been murdered, at the entrance to Hayle Estuary, near Phillack Church, is but a corruption of *Ru-veor*—the *great slope*, or declivity,—which name would well agree with the place, even now, when compared with the surrounding hills.—The ancient family residence of the Bodrigan's, or Bodrygan's, may have been *Bod-ru-goon*, the *house on the sloping down*;‡ and the equally remarkable place Bethruthan, in St. Eval, with its Cliff Castle, and Tumuli, may probably have been *Beth-ru-haun*, the *graves on the declivity*, standing, as both the Castle and Tumuli do, on the edge of the cliff, a precipitous part of the cliff still going by the name Beth-ruthan steps.

The word *haun*, may be traced in several names on the coast, and it is probable, notwithstanding the opinions to the contrary, that Polruan, in Fowey Harbour, is not "the Roman Pool,"—but, *Pol-rhiw-haun*, the *head of the steep, or sloping-haven*, the ground falling rapidly near the head of the inlet. The Ruans, on the Lizard, may, or may not, take their names from a Saint as stated; but Ruan-lan-y-haun, is not so obscure; and it will be

* *Troed-y-rhiw*—the *foot of the slope* in the road, the name of a farm at the foot of a declivity, between Pontypool and Risca, in Monmouthshire;—*Bwlch-rhiw-felen*, between Langollen and Ruthin; and *Ru-ar-dean*, that part of the Forest, or *dene*, on the *slope* or *declivity*, in the Forest of Dean, near Newnham on the Severn.

† Platea.—Heol-vaur-lydan.—A broad way or great street.—Armorican-Street-ryu.—Irish. Sraíd, bothar, slighe." Lhuyds, Arch., page 121.

‡ Borlase supposes it to come from *Druid. Bo-dru-den*. (Antiq., note page 151, 1st Ed.)

found that the common name is to this day, Ruhaun, only; the Lan-y-haun, being perhaps added when the Church was built.—It is further presumed, that the Armorican Ryu, or Ru—a street,—was never a British or Keltic word, even supposing Truro to have been colonized from Armorica at an early period; but the same as the present French word Rue, and derived from the same source; not from the Keltic, as it should be if at that age among the Armorican words, but from the Greek; introduced with other words found in the French language, by the advancing Legions of Rome.

The French word Rue, with which the Armorican Ryu, or Rü, may be considered synonymous, is thus derived from the Greek, in Boiste's Dictionary of the French Language, which particular derivation he asserts to be taken from the "Dictionary of the Academy," (edition 1798.)

"Rue, s.f. via,—Chemin dans une ville, &c., entre des murailles (grande, belle.—large, passajere, sale); espace vide dans une carriere,—(ρύω, pour ρέω, je coule, gr.)—"

Approach Truro by any of the public roads, and you descend a slope, and precisely that sort of slope, which, in their roads, the Welsh call a rhiw.

It does not appear that any Roman remains have been found at Truro; but as the way from St. Austell to Redruth was an ancient British way, as may reasonably be inferred from the *dinas*, east of Tresillian bridge, and the tumuli two miles west of the town, the Romans must have used it, and it is possible that the Ceniam of Ptolemy, and the Itineraries, may have been a corruption of the British Kenwyn, and the "Vale-mouth" be his "Mouth of the Cenion."

But, with the great doubt which hangs over the subject, it is much to be regretted that Dr. Hingston should have given the name Cenion to the western stream which falls into the estuary at Truro; * for which he could not have had any good authority, as appears from diligent inquiries made of some of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Truro. The similarity of sound has led some to suppose that Kenwyn was the origin of Ceniam; that Truro Castle was the site of the station, and the Vale-mouth the Cenionis Ostia of Ptolemy.

Others have placed the station at Tregony; † and a late publication at St. Anthony in Kerrier. ‡

* Davies Gilbert's History of Cornwall, vol. 4. page 315.

† Mr. Whitaker's Cathedral History of Cornwall, and Borlase's Antiquities, note, page 304, 1st. edition.

‡ Map of Ancient Britain, published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

The principal reason to render it probable that Truro was the place, is, its being in the great line of road from Grampond to Redruth, which appears to have been a British road

Tregony* is too far from this great road to have been a Roman Station, and, also too near to Grampond, which is generally allowed to have been one.

The modern works on Pendennis, at the entrance to Falmouth Harbour, have obliterated any traces of former works, but it must not be supposed that such a favourable position had escaped the ancients; for the name dennis, or *dinas*, shows it to have been "a hill fortress" of the British; and there is no reason why it should not have been fortified by the Romans, and, indeed, have been the Ceniam of Ptolemy and the other writers.

The "little Dinas," at St. Anthony, has no remains of Roman right angled works upon it to lead to the supposition that it ever was fortified by that people; the ancient remains are a deep ditch run from sea to sea across the promontory, (perhaps two, though the western ditch, at the Parsonage house, is now nearly effaced), similar to the ditch at the Black Head, the Deadman, and other headlands along the coast.

This ancient ditch appears to have had a modern defence erected at the entrance; and, on the eastern end of the promontory is a redoubt, thrown up it is said during the contest between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians in 1646. The space occupied by the redoubt is not such as to lead to the probability that it was ever altered from a Roman work.† (PLATE XX.)

In the account given by Ptolemy of the rivers and towns in the country of the Cornubii and Danmonii, he appears to include the whole of Cornwall within the limits of Danmonium.

He says, (the quotation is from Polwhele's History of Cornwall), "after the estuary we have the promontory of Hercules, next the promontory Antivestæum, sometimes called Bolerium, (The Land's End), and the promontory Danmonium, called also Ocrinum," here it would appear that the Lizard was part of Danmonium and probably it extended to the Land's End.

"After the promontory of Ocrinum come, mouth of the river Cenion." This river is supposed to be the Val, or Fal; but, as

* In the instances brought forward to prove the Val, or Fal, to be the Cenion of Ptolemy, Tregony and Tregenna are the principal; the first is probably from Tre-gon-y (Tré-guen-ick) the place or dwellings on the common near the river, as given by Pryce in his vocabulary; and not from Genau a mouth, or Cenion, the river, as suggested by Whitaker; and the second is some distance from the river, and, therefore, not likely to have received its name from it.

† Helford Fort also surrendered before the end of March (1646). Lysons's Brit. Corn. p. xxiii introduction.

there is a river and indications, from coins and other remains, of the presence of the Romans at the promontory of Condora, there seems a possibility that the Helford river may be the Cenion, and the headland of St. Anthony, the Ceniam of Ptolemy, and Richard, as well as the Giano of the anonymous Revennas.

The quantity of bodies found in coffins near the church,* and Roman coins in the immediate neighbourhood, shows the spot to have been much frequented at an early period, and to have as much evidence from remains found near it, as Lostwithiel, Grampond, or Tregony, to be considered a Roman station.

Cenion, has been supposed to be derived from Genou, a mouth, and to allude to Falmouth haven, because there is a place called Tregony, and other places near, in which *gon*, or *goon*, forms a syllable.†

Ganau, does mean a mouth; and gon, or goon, is common enough in other parts of the county, as Tre-gon-ick,—town on the down by the water;—but Cenauan, which means the river headland, is as like Cenion as Genou, and it is possible that as the western part of the promontory of St. Anthony is now called Condora,‡ that the meaning of it is Kyn-dourau, which is literally the head between the two waters; the river Doura or Gillan Harbour (Cil-haun) being on the south side of the headland, and the Helford river, which may have been the Cenion of the ancients on the north, for it never could have been called the Helford, which means Hail—a shore; and ffordd—a way; perhaps from the passage at Helford. It was not always that Pen was applied as head, for it is presumed that the old Head of Kinsale, in Ireland, was originally Ceauns—aille—Head of the rock—in Erse) or the rocks head. And that Ken-mare,—Ceaun—maur—great-head, may have given name to the river of that name, which has a bold promontory, with Dursey Island, on the south at its entrance.

The opposite side the Helford river to Condora is called Dourgan,—White water (perhaps from a clear rill that falls in there), which may have been the British name of the whole stream; it signifies, also, the mouth of a river;|| Gan being a contraction of Ganau,—a mouth; this may be considered to strengthen the pro-

* Polwhele's History of Cornwall.

† Guen, Campus, a plain, (Cottn. Manuscript, Borlase Vocabulary).

‡ Mr. Polwhele gives "the neck of the waters," as the meaning of Condora, from Codna, or Conna, the neck: and the junction between the Dinas Head and Condora supports this opinion, but it must be observed that there is another tenement between this neck and Condora, called Tendra.

|| See Polwhele's History of Cornwall, where the antiquities of St. Anthony are minutely described.

bability that the Cenion of Ptolemy was the mouth of the Helford river, and not the mouth of the Val.

The word Ken, or Kyn, or Cen, will also be found in other places fortified by the Romans, as Kenchester, near Hereford, and perhaps the Cunetium, now Marlborough, in Wiltshire.

The nearness of Condora to the Fal, may have given rise to the mistake of placing Ceniam in that river; which if Voluba be Grampond, as seems probable from the name, and the opinion of Camden and Borlase,* then it would be too near to fix another station within the Fal, even with the name Tregony to support it.†

It is true we have the great authority of Horsley against our fixing Voluba at Grampond, for he would make it at Lostwithiel, (Uxela) but when it is considered that the position of Grampond commands the great road into the west of Danmonium, and that it is situated on an estuary of the Val, it seems reasonable to suppose that such a post would not escape the military eye of the Roman General, particularly as there is evidence that the tide once flowed above Tregony.

In the account of Ptolemy* we find no mention of the towns of the Cornubii, but in Richard two are mentioned, "Urbes habebant Musidum et Halaugium," he also mentions those in Danmonium, "Urbes habebant, Uxellam, Temaram, Volubam, Ceniam," &c.

It will be seen, that, in the course pursued by Ptolemy, he passed from the promontory of Hercules, which was Hartland Point, by the Land's End, and the Lizard, to the mouth of the river Isea, and Isea Danmoniorum is allowed, by most authorities, to be Exeter.

The succession of places is thus enumerated:—Mouths of *rivers*—"Cenion, Tamare, and Isca; *towns*—Voluba, Uxela, Tamare, and Isea." It is evident that some rivers, and probably towns, are omitted in this enumeration; but, if both are taken together, as given by him, the succession will be more complete, Cenion, Voluba, Uxela, Tamarus, and Isea. This compared with Richard's account, in the reverse order, Uxellam, Tamaram, Volubam, and Ceniam, will not exhibit any great difference; for, it appears that Uxella has been applied to an estuary at other places besides Exeter.

* Borlase's Antiquities, chap. 4, page 294 (1st edition).

† "Cenia lying somewhere on the Cenio river, or harbour of Ptolemy, must be either Tregeny or Truroe; but Tregeny bears fairest to be this Cenia; for in the parish of Lamorran on this creek, we find two mansions called Tregennah; and in the adjoining parish of Verian, we find a tenement of like name, all taking their name from a river, or creek, called anciently the Genna, or Cenia, as may be reasonably supposed," (Borlase's Antiquities, page 304.)

That these places should be found so near the sea, and in estuaries, will not excite surprise if we admit, with Dr. Borlase, that Agricola conquered Cornwall by water.*

The road from Liskeard through Lostwithiel, St. Austell, and Grampond, to Truro, and Redruth, has much the appearance, from tumuli and other remains, of having been a British road.

Near Redruth, the British road from Mitchell to St. Michael's Mount, joined the road from Grampond; and it is reasonable to suppose, that a conqueror would take possession of the south line of road by forming military posts upon it, at the same time that he established his communications with the sea. It will be seen that Uxela at Lostwithiel, and Voluba at Grampond, would answer this object, and supposing the next station to be at Bosence, near Hayle, (Halangium) there would remain a great extent of country to the south of this great leading road without any place of defence whatever.†

But if we take Condora to have been the Ceniam, it is presumed that the occupation and command of the country would have been much more complete than by supposing it to be any place whatever within the mouth of the Fal.

On the opposite side of the Helford river to St. Anthony, is Port Sawzen, which is supposed to have derived its name from being frequented by the Saxons in the time of Constantius and his brothers; such was the opinion of Dr. Borlase, ‡ who was the first to notice it; but Mr. Whitaker was of a different opinion; he says, "this is much too early a date, for the Saxons frequenting a creek so remote and western as a Cornish one. It was in fact used by them about 300 years later. Then they landed here, were here attacked, and here defeated with a slaughter so memorable as to fix the name of the "Saxon port" for ever upon the place, and to be recorded with two other defeats of the Saxons in the same reign, even by the pen of a Welsh chronicler. ||

It seems probable, that, whenever the Saxons visited this creek, "the Dennis" was in the possession of their enemies; and on examination of the ground on the western entrance, some faint traces of an encampment will be seen on a round hill, close to the creek, with a wood on the declivity next to the stream.

* Borlase's Antiquities, page 341.

† The distance from Grampond to Hayle is about twenty-seven miles, in a straight line; and from Grampond to Truro about seven miles; this last may be considered too near for another station, supposing with some that Kenwyn is the Ceniam. Grampond from St. Anthony, or Condora, is about seventeen miles; and Condora from Bosence, near Hayle, about fourteen miles.

‡ Borlase's Antiquities, page 302, and Polwhele's History of Cornwall, vol. 2, page 124.

|| Whitaker's Cath. History of Cornwall, vol. 1, page 13.

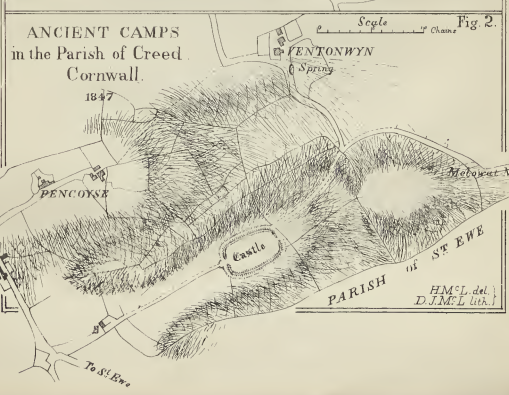
This hill, still goes by the name of "the round," and it is not improbable that the works were destroyed on the defeat of the Saxons.

The creek is now so filled up with sand, that it would form but a bad place to shelter any vessels, even the small ones we may suppose the Saxons to have used.

The adjoining creek, on the east, is called Parsonage Creek, or Porth-tol-ick, from a remarkable *tol*, or *hole*, in the cliff a little more to the eastward, where the geologist will see a beautiful instance of contorted strata, near the rock called the Mawnan Chair.


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 Fig. 1

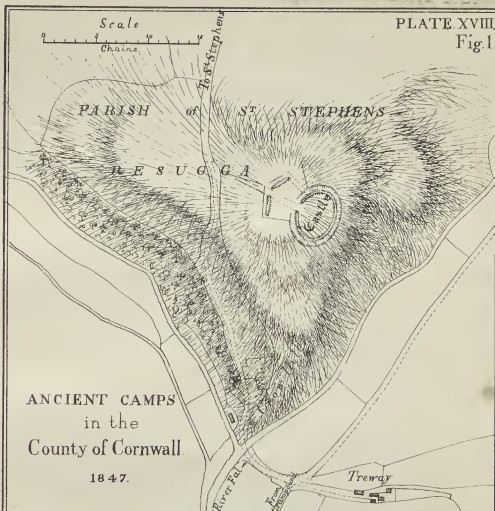
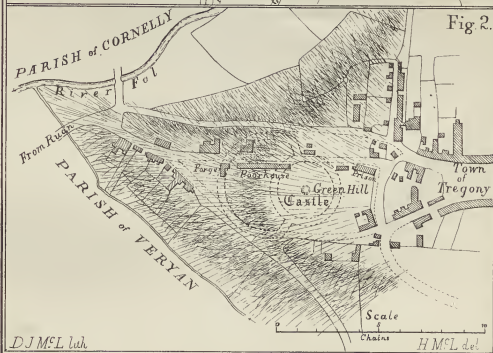


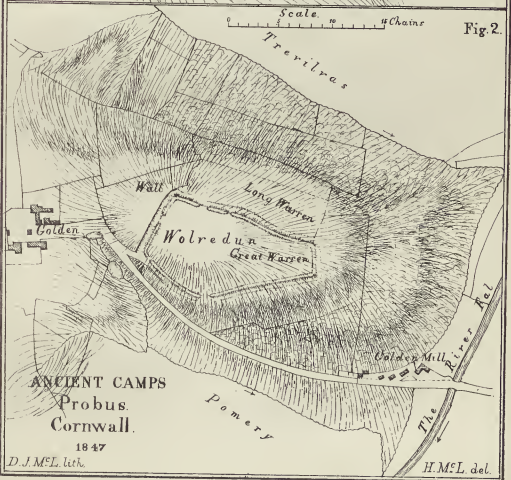
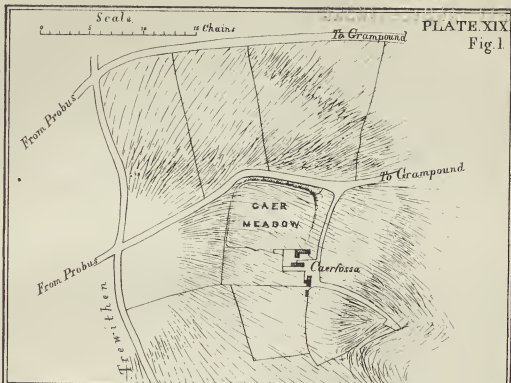
Fig. 2.



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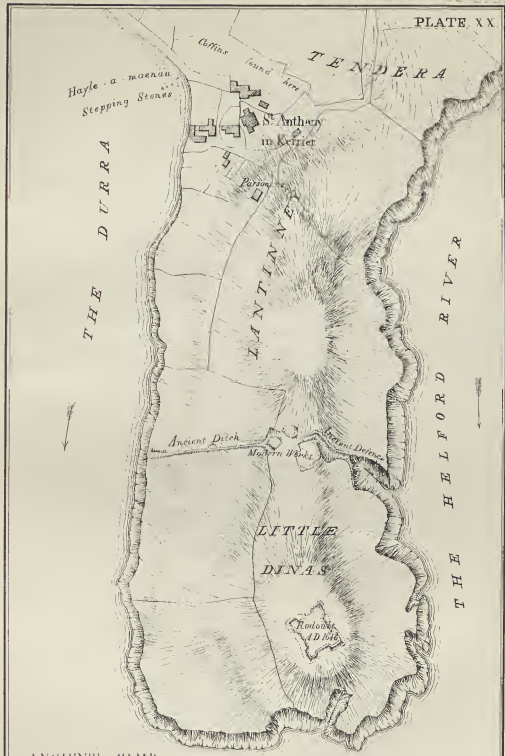
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